

Serial No.: 10/722,574
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IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 13, please amend the two paragraphs beginning on line 4 as follows:

--The catheter shown in Fig. 12 has a first section 81 forming the proximal, insertable end of the catheter, and a second, distal, section 82 forming a handle part of the catheter. The first and second sections may have different shapes corresponding to their intended use. The first section is oblong and has an inlet opening 83 for draining urine from the bladder into an internal conduit extending through both sections of the catheter, and the first section is slim when compared to the second part. The first section is covered by a tubular protective member 84 which is detachably attached to the outer surface of the catheter (in Fig. 12, the tubular protective member is removed and the catheter is ready for insertion into the urinary tract). The tubular protective member forms a substantially annular cavity around the first catheter section, having an open end that is removably connected to the second catheter section and a closed end distal from the open end so that, when the tubular protective member is connected to the second catheter section, both ends of the annular cavity are closed. The disclosed tubular protective member is cylindrical, and has an outward flange 85 supporting removal of the sleeve from the

catheter. The internal conduit connects the inlet opening with the outlet opening 86 opposite the inlet opening in the second section. The outlet opening is covered by a foil 87 which is attached in a manner which allows peeling. A ribbed portion 88 gives the user a tactile indication of the transition between the first section and the second section. The first and second sections are joined in a joint 89, e.g. by gluing or welding. Alternatively, the sections may be made in one piece. As in the embodiment shown in Figs. 4-7 discussed earlier, the substantially annular cavity around the first catheter section may be used for accommodating a friction-reducing substance so that the first catheter section is stored in a ready-to-use condition. Because both ends of the cavity are closed in the storage configuration, such friction-reducing substance is prevented from escaping through either one of the ends.

Fig. 13 shows the catheter of Fig. 12, wherein the tubular protective member 84 is attached to the catheter. The second section 82 is not covered by the tubular protective member in the storage configuration shown, i.e., the second section 82 is exposed to the ambient environment. The tubular protective member fastens to the second section via an inwardly extending flange (not shown) engaging the ribbed portion 88.--